

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of improving installation of software packages,  
2 comprising steps of:

3 ~~consulting a status-to-weight mapping that assigns~~ assigning a weight to each of one or  
4 more selected values ~~corresponding to status of one or more~~ each of a plurality of installation  
5 parameters associated with a software product installation;

6 determining a plurality of potential target systems on which the software product  
7 installation might be performed;

8 ~~consulting a parameter-to-routine mapping that identifies~~ identifying a routine to analyze  
9 each of the installation parameters ~~at the potential target systems;~~

10 programmatically interrogating each of the potential target systems for its status of each  
11 of the installation parameters, using the ~~routine identified routines for each of the installation~~  
12 ~~parameters;~~ and

13 ~~computing a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems by summing,~~  
14 ~~for each of the potential target systems, [[using]] the weight assigned weights, in combination~~  
15 ~~with the selected values and to a value corresponding to the status of each of the installation~~  
16 ~~parameters[[,]] to compute a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems.~~

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the programmatically  
2 interrogating step further comprises the step of invoking the identified routines at each of the  
3 potential target systems.

**Claim 3 (canceled)**

1     **Claim 4 (original):** The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of ranking the  
2     potential target systems according to their suitability assessments.

1     **Claim 5 (original):** The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of providing  
2     the ranking to a software installer.

1     **Claim 6 (original):** The method according to Claim 5, wherein the software installer is a person  
2     and wherein the providing step comprises the step of displaying the ranking on a graphical user  
3     interface.

1     **Claim 7 (original):** The method according to Claim 5, wherein the software installer is a  
2     programmatic process and wherein the providing step further comprises the step of supplying the  
3     ranking to the programmatic process in a machine-readable form.

1     **Claim 8 (currently amended):** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the status-to-weight  
2     mapping is assigned weights and selected values are specified using a structured markup  
3     language.

1     **Claim 9 (original):** The method according to Claim 8, wherein the structured markup language is  
2     Extensible Markup Language ("XML") or a derivative thereof.

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1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the status-to-weight  
2 mapping and the parameter-to-routine mapping assigned weights, the selected values, and the  
3 identifications of the routines are specified using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 10, wherein the mappings  
2 specifications are part of an installation object defined for the software product installation.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the interrogating step  
2 further comprising comprises the step of transmitting a message to each of the potential target  
3 systems, wherein the message specifies the identified routines.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the message is to be processed  
2 by an installation agent residing on each of the potential target systems.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:  
2 receiving the transmitted message at a particular one of the potential target systems;  
3 invoking the identified routines from the received message, thereby determining the status  
4 of each of the installation parameters for this particular potential target system; and  
5 returning the status of each of the installation parameters in a response message.

1 Claim 15 (original): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of using the

2 provided ranking, by the software installer, to select one or more of the potential target systems  
3 as one or more actual target systems for the software product installation.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:  
2 distributing a software installation package for the software product installation to each of  
3 the selected actual target systems; and  
4 performing the software product installation on the selected actual target systems.

1 Claim 17 (original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the specified routines in the  
2 transmitted message are encoded using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 18 (original): The method according to Claim 14, wherein the status of each of the  
2 installation parameters in the response message is encoded using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 19 (original): The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of  
2 configuring the software installation package prior to operation of the distributing step.

1 Claim 20 (original): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the configuring step further  
2 comprises reflecting the status for at least one of the installation parameters in the configured  
3 software installation package.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): A system for improving installation of software packages,

2 comprising:

3 means for determining a plurality of potential target systems on which the software  
4 product installation might be performed;

5 means for determining a plurality of installation parameters associated with the software  
6 product installation;

7 means for consulting a parameter-to-routine mapping that specifies, for each of the  
8 installation parameters, a remotely-executable routine for determining a status of the installation  
9 parameter at the potential target systems;

10 means for programmatically interrogating requesting each of the potential target systems  
11 to execute the remotely-executable routine specified for its status of each of one or more the  
12 installation parameters associated with a software product installation, by invoking, at each of  
13 the potential target systems, a routine which is identified for analyzing that installation parameter  
14 and return the determined status thereof;

15 means for consulting a status-to-weight mapping that specifies, for each of one or more  
16 potential values of the determined status of each of the installation parameters, a weight value  
17 associated therewith; and

18 means for computing a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems by  
19 summing, for each of the potential target systems, the weight value associated with the  
20 determined status of each of the installation parameters using weights which are assigned to each  
21 of one or more selected values of the one or more installation parameters, in combination with  
22 the selected values and the status of each of the installation parameters, to compute a suitability  
23 assessment for each of the potential target systems.

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1 Claim 22 (original): The system according to Claim 21, further comprising means for ranking  
2 the potential target systems according to their suitability assessments.

1 Claim 23 (original): The system according to Claim 22, further comprising means for providing  
2 the ranking to a software installer.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer program product for improving installation of  
2 software packages, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable  
3 media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for determining a plurality of potential target  
5 systems on which the software product installation might be performed;

6 computer-readable program code means for programmatically interrogating each of the  
7 potential target systems for its status of each of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of installation parameters  
8 associated with a software product installation, by invoking, at each of the potential target  
9 systems, a routine which is identified in a parameter-to-routine mapping for analyzing that  
10 installation parameter; and

11 computer-readable program code means for computing a suitability assessment for each  
12 of the potential target systems by summing, for each of the installation parameters, a weight  
13 associated with the status of the installation parameter for the potential target system, wherein the  
14 weight is determined from a status-to-weight mapping that associates weights with using weights  
15 which are assigned to each of one or more selected values of the status one or more installation

16 ~~parameters, in combination with the selected values and the status of each of the installation~~  
17 ~~parameters, to compute a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems.~~

Claim 25 (canceled)

1 Claim 26 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 24, further comprising  
2 computer-readable program code means for ranking the potential target systems according to  
3 their suitability assessments.

1 Claim 27 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 24, wherein the  
2 potential target systems are remotely-located.

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of improving installation of software packages,  
2 comprising steps of:

3 consulting a status-to-weight mapping that assigns assigning a weight to each of one or  
4 more selected values corresponding to status of one or more each of a plurality of installation  
5 parameters associated with installation of a plurality of software products;  
6 determining a plurality of potential target systems on which the installation of the  
7 software products might be performed;  
8 consulting a parameter-to-routine mapping that identifies identifying a routine to analyze  
9 each of the installation parameters at the potential target systems;  
10 programmatically interrogating each of the potential target systems for its status of each

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11 of the installation parameters, using the routine identified routines for each of the installation  
12 parameters; and  
13 computing a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems by summing  
14 for each of the potential target systems, [[using]] the weight assigned weights, in combination  
15 with the selected values and to a value corresponding to the status of each of the installation  
16 parameters[.]] to compute a suitability assessment for each of the potential target systems.